



# Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

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## **WSDA appoints Wendy Rude new livestock identification program manager**

OLYMPIA – Department of Agriculture Director Valoria Loveland announced today that Wendy Rude is the new manager of the state's livestock identification program. Rude comes to WSDA after 14 years as executive director of the Northwest Equicare Rehabilitation Riding Program in Eatonville. Her appointment was effective Feb. 2.

"We are extremely pleased to have a person in this position with Wendy's background and experience," said Loveland. "I know she will do an outstanding job working with the livestock industry to carry out the state's livestock identification program."

Rude has a bachelor's degree from Pacific Lutheran University and a master's degree from Seattle University. She grew up on a family farm in Roy, a member of a fifth generation farm family. She and her husband, Brett, live on the original family homestead. Rude has extensive agriculture experience, which includes working with livestock quarantine, transportation, branding, and identification concerns.

Rude has also worked for the Western Washington Fair Association and the Northwest Trek Wildlife Park of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma.

"I am honored to have been chosen for this position," Rude said. "I look forward to working closely with the Livestock Identification Advisory Board and all cattle and horse owners to successfully address the current and future needs of livestock identification."

The livestock identification program maintains the official record of approximately 7,000 livestock brands registered in the state. In addition, the program inspects cattle and horses for proof of ownership at public markets, slaughterhouses, certified feedlots, change of ownership, and prior to movement out of state.

Approximately 650,000 cattle and 15,000 horses are inspected annually.

For more information on WSDA's livestock identification program, call (360) 902-1855, or visit the agency's Web site at [www.agr.wa.gov](http://www.agr.wa.gov), and click respectively on "Food & Animals" and "Livestock."

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